



U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

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SANTA ANA, CA - A local firm, [Morrow Cable Construction](#), has been named the Region IX Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The firm's president, Robert Morrow, will be honored, along with other individuals, at the [47th Annual Small Business Week Awards](#) luncheon, June 2nd, at the Embassy Suites - Anaheim South in Garden Grove.

The Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year Award is earned by an individual or organization that demonstrates a commitment to veterans of the armed forces by advocating on their behalf or providing opportunities for employment. Region IX covers California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam.

MCC, based in Stanton, with satellite offices in Los Angeles and San Diego, is a telecommunication construction contractor, providing service to the commercial, residential and private sector. Morrow founded the firm in 1996 after years of gaining experience in the U.S. Army and the private sector. Serving as a tactical field wireman, Morrow's primary duty in the military called for establishing and maintaining the company's wire communications. After leaving the service, Morrow worked for numerous cable and telephone companies and contractors, then obtained his contractor's license the same year he started MCC.

Morrow's passion lies in helping veterans and disabled veterans by providing employment opportunities. Morrow, a disabled veteran, comes from a line of family members that have served. His father, stepfather and grandfather were in the military and his son served in Iraq. Morrow encourages his employees to create their own businesses by providing opportunities to attend veteran-owned business networking events and conferences.

Sgt. Major Jesse Acosta, who was wounded in Iraq during a mortar attack and lost his vision, supported Morrow's nomination, saying, "I have had the opportunity to attend many events with Mr. Morrow and can tell you he puts the needs of the veterans as a priority, ensuring he can place them in positions that they are comfortable and will be productive. He creates a safe working environment for them by addressing their individual needs and working with their disabilities. His willingness and dedication to hire veterans is unparalleled and for this he stands out amongst his peers."

Morrow Cable Construction makes it a point to employ veterans and service disabled veterans who have served our country in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. This helps returning combat veterans reintegrate into society by working with other veterans and teaching them a new valuable trade in technology.

Some examples of past and current employees include:

- Cpl Stephen Taylor (USMC) - Wounded during combat operations in Iraq where his vehicle's driver was killed. Taylor was responsible for all AutoCad drawings, layouts and mapping
- Spc Kenneth Dancel (USA) - Sustained severe head injuries during combat operations in Iraq. He is currently working on project at a VA facility.

- Sgt Josh Gutierrez (USA)- Severely wounded and lost leg during search for captured U.S. soldier. Trained as a safety inspector and copper / fiber optic cable installer.
- Spc Moses Escareno (USA)- Severely wounded during combat operations in Iraq where he experienced a flash burn to the left side of his body. He is currently working on project at a VA facility.
- Sgt Erick Castro (USA)- Lost his leg during ambush in Iraq. He is currently the assistant controller and oversees all of the company's daily operations.

Morrow advocates for veterans by being an active member of both the California Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Alliance and the Elite Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Network. Additionally, he attends events like Military Helping Military, Keeping the Promise and the National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo.

MCC has earned a variety of awards and commendation letters from clients and partners, including the State of California EDD and Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of the Army and the Southern California Minority Business Development Council. Morrow has built relationships with various organizations to ensure potential customers know MCC's capabilities and understand the importance of providing opportunities to veterans.

Besides the priority Morrow places in hiring veterans at MCC, he constantly monitors job announcements for opportunities at firms, utility companies and county, state and federal agencies. Morrow has also helped open the lines of communication with the construction and utilities industries to encourage hiring practices that provide opportunities to veterans seeking employment.

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Small businesses are major contributors to the strength of the American economy. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and they create 60-80 percent of new jobs in the country. The SBA recognizes this special impact made by outstanding entrepreneurs and small business champions during festivities in Washington, D.C. in May and locally at the 47th Annual Small Business Week Awards on June 2nd.

Registration for the awards luncheon is available at www.2010smallbizweek.eventbrite.com.

National Small Business Week information is available at www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com.

Additional information about the 47th Annual Small Business Week Awards luncheon is available by contacting christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov or 714.560.7453.

Information about the U.S. Small Business Administration is available at www.sba.gov.